



York Region Presidents' Council

Meeting # 5

Wednesday, November 16th, 2005 @ R.H.H.S.

Minutes Compiled by Matthew Colphon – Minister of Records

Schools Represented: Aurora H.S.; Dr. J.M. Denison S.S.; Emily Carr S.S.; King City S.S.; Maple H.S.; Markham D.H.S.; Middlefield C.I.; Newmarket H.S.; Richmond Hill H.S.; Sutton D.H.S.; Thornlea S.S.; Unionville H.S.; Vaughan S.S.; Westmount C.I.; Woodbridge College

- 1) Presentation by Tony and Cory, York Regional Executives of Aramark.

Aramark is currently the cafeteria provider responsible for the majority of the secondary schools in the YRDSB. This large company is also responsible for many other affairs, including over 200 Ontario secondary schools, hospitals, plant engineering, Olympics and world cup sports. To meet our regions needs, Aramark employs many nutritionists and chefs in order to provide healthy, balanced and affordable meals to all students. Tony, a regional executive, and Cory, the region's executive chef, entertained a field of questions at this weeks YRPC meeting.

Q: What changes are being made to make cafeteria food healthier?

A: Fries are now cooked in trans fat free oil, low fat salad dressings are being offered, and a new menu is being developed for the next school year.

Q: Last year, fundraising for beavertails was available; will there be more fundraisers like this?

A: yes.

Q: Why is it that healthy food costs a lot, while unhealthy choices are relatively cheap?

A: Prices of healthier items have actually fallen, and after the price freeze ends, we're hoping to make healthy choices even less expensive.

Q: Isn't cafeteria food more expensive than chains like McDonald's?

A: No, pound for pound cafeteria choices are actually cheaper, and on top of that, buying in cafeterias sends money directly back to your school. For more information contact Katherine Smallwood.

Q: What vegetarian foods are available?

A: Aside from salads, samosas and rice have been added to the menu with more items coming soon.

Q: The prices and menu boards are difficult to see in some schools, especially for individual items, will this be revised?

A: This will be fixed soon, YRDSB schools are actually a test for a new type of menu board.

Q: Would it not be easier for students to include the price of an item with tax on the menu board?

A: This may be changed on the next series of menu boards coming out.

Q: Our school has students with lunches during all 5 periods of the day. Why is it that students with later lunches find that food has run out or that the cafeteria is closed when they are ready to eat?

A: Thank you for noticing this, this issue will be dealt with accordingly.

Q: At \$5, options like buying a salad and fries aren't available, why is this?

A: For combinations including healthy choices at low prices, try encouraging students to order from the "Treat Yourself Right" portion of the menu. As a sidebar, it appears that many students are choosing to order healthier items, because fry sales have fallen and milk sales have increased drastically.

Q: What options are available for breakfast foods?

A: Hot sandwiches, muffins, cereals, bagels; for more information or to give input, talk to your local cafeteria manager.

Q: Why aren't clubs allowed to sell during lunches?

A: Aramark respectfully asks student groups not to sell during lunches due to a number of factors including:

-the current contract, which prohibits other groups selling food. 2 food selling days per semester are permitted at the discretion of cafeteria managers.

-Fundraisers often sell unhealthy foods and food during these fundraisers isn't always handled properly.

-To help with fundraising days, talk to you cafeteria manager, as resources are available through Aramark. This includes the use of a Karaoke machine.

For more information about Aramark, contact your school's cafeteria manager or email executive chef Cory Dekerf at cory_dekerf@aramark.ca.

- 2) Conference name: By election, the name of YRPC's 2006 conference will be REMIX. At this time, we would ask that interested persons please start to think about what the letters of remix could represent (for example, IMPACT in 2003 represented Inspired Motivated People Acting Continuously Together).

- 3) Applications for conference positions of skillbuilders and security continue to be available. Contact skillorbuild@hotmail.com or mgrief@gmail.com respectively for more information. The conference will take place from April 27 to 30.
- 4) Anyone interested in being security at YRSAC's (York Region Student Athletic Council) conference please email MLD0506@hotmail.com for more information.
- 5) Update from Student Trustee, Husein Panju.

Recently, the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) essentially eliminated its zero-tolerance policy. This essentially means that fewer offenses will be automatically expellable or suspendable, while alternative consequences focused more on rehabilitation are to be recommended. Although this does not directly affect the students of the YRDSB, the student trustee would like to hear some opinions on this.

Q: Does this mean that schools will be more lenient towards offenders, or is it still possible to be expelled?

A: It is still possible to be expelled, but much less likely, especially for a first offense.

Dr. Denison S.S. offers that while removing zero tolerance on some things may be appropriate, it should be enforced since encouraging second chances could lead to more violence.

Sutton H.S. offers that zero tolerance isn't as strictly enforced to the letter, as it would lead to many more expulsions. Instead, counseling and a behavioral centre is a viable option.

Ms. Hitz, YRPC's Board Liaison, offers that zero-tolerance has evolved since when it was initially introduced, it was far too aggressive. Now, suspensions are discouraged in favour of mediation and rehabilitation consequences, or community service. Essentially, zero-tolerance isn't as black and white as it used to be.

6) Sharing

Aurora H.S.

-Paul Martin/Belinda Stronach visited Aurora H.S. last week

Dr. J.M. Denison S.S.

-Operation Christmas Child was a success, sending 505 boxes of presents to 3rd world children. As promised, some teachers at the school will be cross dressing in celebration of sending over 500 boxes.

-the school's holiday assembly is upcoming

King City H.S.

-This is support staff appreciation week

Maple H.S.

- Red carpet semi-formal will be held December 9
- Frost fest and door decorating will begin soon

Middlefield C.I.

- hosted a free dance
- will be holding a spirit week next week

Newmarket H.S.

- Hosted a great dance, DJ was Energy Massive entertainment

Richmond Hill H.S.

- Former president De Klerk of South Africa visited earlier this week
- Semi-formal will be held at Dinardo's Mansion on November 18

Sutton H.S.

- Successfully held a one period pep rally

Thornlea S.S.

- The "Some Wonderful Entertainment" talent show is upcoming

Woodbridge College

- Is looking for a portable stage

Westmount C.I.

- Night of the bands will be held next Wednesday
- Is currently looking for a mascot costume

Thank you for attending this meeting. Our next meeting will be held November 30 and will commence at 6pm, not 7, as there will be corporate rotations. For more information about YRPC please contact the YRPC prime minister at yrpcpm@hotmail.com.